THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) During the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in March—April, 1992, the Group of 77 and China put forward the view that the governance of Global Environment Facility (GEF) must be transparent and democratic in nature, and that this should be reflected in all its operations and decision-making.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Projects for Environmental Clearance

1786. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects of Government of Orissa which have got environmental clearance by the Minitry in the year 1991-92 and the number of projects which are still awaiting clearance from the Ministry and since when; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No project of Government of Orissa has been received for environmental clearance during 1991-92 and no project of Government of Orissa is awaiting environmental clearance from this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Problem of Pollution and Health Hazards in Delhi due to smoke emission by vehicles

1787. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite many laws and rules and regulations there is no perceptible let up in the emission of smoke by the DTC buses, tempos, scooters and other vehicles in the Capital posing long term pollutional and health hazards to its everyday burgeoning population;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the law enforcing agencies have failed to enforce these laws, rules and regulations; and

(c) what steps Government is now propose to take to meet this serious challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Delhi Administration through the Directorate of Transport Has authorised 110 private workshops and petrol pumps to provide pollution checking and tuning facilities. These centres have provided pollution checking facility to aproxpimately 5.87 lakh vehicles between July, 1990 and May, 1991. About 1.77 lakh polluting vehicles were tuned and their pollution levels brought to within the prescribed standards. A total number of 11.71 lakh vehicle owners have availed pollution checking facility between March, 1990 and October, 1991. About 1.51 lakh vehicle owners have been issued warning slips between the above mentioned period for non-compliance of standards prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. 4713 number of Vehicles have been prosecuted till November, 1991 in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. In addition, 'Certificate of Fitness' of about 5058 transport vehicles

have been instructed to bring their vehicles within the prescribed standards before obtaining 'Certificate of Fitness'.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to Control Vehicular pollution include the following:—

(1) The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has set up a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emission from its buses. This action plan consists of (i) reducing smoke emissions by tuning vehicles/engines (ii) acquiring buses for replacement of over-aged buses from the active fleet (iii) reducing overloading (iv) introducing buses with fuel conservative engines (v) equippinig the vehicles with smoke meters for monitoring the smoke levels of the fleet held at the units.

(2) Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration has launched a publicity campaign and initiated action on the Government vehicles and buses of the DTC to ensure that they meet the standards notified.

(3) Pollution checking and tuning facilities have been provided at 110 private workshops and petrol pumps in Delhi.

(d) A prosecution drive has been launched against the vehicles violating the emission standards.

(5) The Government has started a programme of running battery powered buses so as to minimise vehicular pollution in the congested areas of traffic.

(6) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified.

(7) The Petroleum Industry has been asked to bring down the lead content in petrol to 0.15 gm/l by 1993.

Afforestation in Rajasthan

1788. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of Forest, Desert and Agricultural land in Rajasthan with percentage of each;

(b) the area of desert under afforestation by the Japanese firm; and

(c) whether there is any plan to include more desert areas under afforestation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total geographical area of Rajasthan is 34.22 million hectares. The position regarding the recorded forest area, desert area and net sown area is as follows:—

	Area (Mil. hectars)	Percentage of total geograhical area.
(i) Recorded forest area	3.16	9.2%
(ii) Desert area	20.87	60.9%
(iii) Net sown area	16.12	47.1%